

## CITY SOUND TRAVEL: SOUND ARTIST YIN YI

### IN...ART FEATURES



How many artists can call themselves “sound artists”? Yin Yi (center) can – he is a sound artist who is intensely alert to the sounds of the world around him, collecting them in his daily life and travels.

He is the co-founder of [Body and Music Space](#) in Shanghai and was recently a guest speaker at [TEDxTheBund](#).

His projects include [City Sound Travel](#), a continuous independent project compiling a collection of sounds from different cities; he has also composed music for films, and participated in 1-24, a twenty four-hour project of field recordings

recorded within 1 square kilometre.

Yin Yi most recently organized the project *Sonic Transmission: VOL. 2*, a series of performances between sound artists from Hong Kong and Shanghai, which was exhibited by Shanghai’s [Rockbund Art Museum](#) in November and runs until May 2013.

*Sonic Transmission’s* sound artist performers put together an interesting mix of creative media to collect all kinds of sounds. They work with both field recordings and invented computerized sounds, using multiple speakers to create ambient noises. The field recordings pick up basically whatever sounds that come from placing down a recording device in different areas in the city – they comprise everything from forest animals, to vehicles, to people talking.

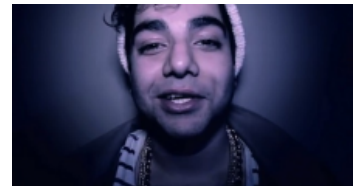


Flower Market, Amsterdam

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Some of these sounds came from Cédric Maridet, who recently worked on a field recording residency in the Brazilian rainforest. I have to say the whispered names of species coming from all different directions of the room was amazing.

Yin Yi has also been working with an animator to create sound on the spot for pre-made animations, so that the sound element is more about chance and environment, much like a piano player in a silent film. His *City Sound Travel* project includes the capturing of field recordings such as the sound of the newspaper seller, or in places such as the Shanghai Train tunnel. These recordings are impressive. He encourages people to focus on the layers of sound, rather than interpreting them as noise. If you have ever traveled and wished to recall the subtle sounds of certain cities, *City Sound Travel* evokes those memories.

*Newspaper Vendor, Shanghai*

Alongside these ventures, Yin Yi runs Body and Music Space – a performing arts platform in Shanghai that opened in 2011 – and is also a professor at the Fine Art College of Shanghai University, where he teaches sound design and digital audio technology.

If you missed the Sonic Transmission VOL.2, you should try to see Yin Yi perform at the Rockbund Art Museum at 7 pm this Sunday, December 9 as part of an improvised audiovisual performance Regulated Anarchy, along with German and Chinese sound artists like founder of Zeitkunst Mattias Muche, Hahne Sven, Vvzela Qu, Echo Ho, and Zhao Junyuan. With more sound events coming up, keep an eye out for this series at the Rockbund Art Museum!

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